

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00  
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P 301832Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6920  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10499

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, AO, CG, BE  
SUBJECT: MODERATE AFRICAN DIPLOMAT VIEWS SHABA; HIS  
CONVERSATION WITH ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM.

1. A MODERATE, PRO-U.S. WEST AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO  
BELGIUM GAVE US FOLLOWING READ-OUT ON HIS RECENT  
CONVERSATION AT A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION WITH THE  
ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THE E.C., LUIS JOSE  
DE ALMEIDA, ABOUT SHABA.

A. AFRICAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT DE ALMEIDA TOLD HIM  
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD SUPPORTED THE RECENT  
KATANGESE ATTACK AT KOLWEZI WHICH WAS MOUNTED WITH  
THE PURPOSE OF OVERTHROWING MOBUTU. HE SAID THAT  
ANGOLA WOULD MAINTAIN THE PRESSURE ON MOBUTU, INCLUDING  
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SUPPORTING FURTHER MILITARY OPERATIONS, UNTIL HE FELL.  
THE MODERATE AFRICAN ASKED DE ALMEIDA WHY MOBUTU'S  
FOREIGN FOES DID NOT EASE OFF AND ALLOW MOBUTU TO  
SAVE FACE AND GO QUIETLY. DE ALMEIDA REPLIED THAT  
MOBUTU WAS SO CORRUPT AND HIS SUPPORT OF REBELS  
INVADING ANGOLA SO FLAGRANT THAT HE DID NOT DESERVE  
A BREATHING SPACE AND REPEATED THAT ANGOLA WILL PRESS

ON UNTIL MOBUTU FALLS.

B. DE ALMEIDA DID EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE FIGHTING ABILITY OF MOROCCAN AND SENEGALESE TROOPS REPORTEDLY ON THE WAY TO SHABA. THE MODERATE AFRICAN AMBASSADOR AGREED ABOUT THE PROWESS OF THE MOROCCANS BUT SAID THAT THESE SENEGALESE WERE REAL SENEGALESE RATHER THAN THE TOUGH "SENEGALESE" WHO HAD COME FROM MALI AND UPPER VOLTA DURING COLONIAL TIMES. DE ALMEIDA THEN LEFT THE MODERATE AFRICAN AMBASSADOR AND MOVED OFF TO BERATE THE SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR FOR ALLOWING HIS COUNTRY'S TROOPS TO BE USED IN A COLONIALIST FASHION BY THE FRENCH.

2. THE SAME MODERATE WEST-AFRICAN AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS RECENTLY IN PARIS AT THE FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT WITH HIS PRESIDENT, TOLD US THAT THERE WAS NO GREAT GENERAL ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE MODERATE AFRICAN NATIONS IN PARIS EITHER FOR MOBUTU OR FOR GISCARD'S SCHEME FOR CREATING AN AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE SHOWED US A DRAFT RESOLUTION, INTRODUCED BY FRENCH, COMMENDING GISCARD FOR HIS INTERVENTIONIST ROLE IN SHABA. THE RESOLUTION IMMEDIATELY RAN INTO TROUBLE, HE SAID, AND WAS "WISELY" WITHDRAWN QUICKLY BY ELYSEE ADVISOR JOURNIAC. HE SAID THAT MALI AND UPPER VOLTA HAD OPPOSED THE AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE CONCEPT AT PARIS  
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AND HE THOUGHT THAT ONLY MOROCCO, IVORY COAST, GABON, AND CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE ("GOOD FIGHTERS") WOULD ULTIMATELY END UP SENDING ANY FORCES TO SHABA, WITH OTHER NATIONS POSSIBLY SENDING SOME TOKEN SUPPORT.

3. THE MODERATE WEST AFRICAN AMBASSADOR, ALTHOUGH MANY TIMES HAVING EXPRESSED TO US HIS DISTASTE AND CONTEMPT FOR MOBUTU'S VENALITY AND CORRUPTION, SAID THAT IT IS NEVERTHELESS VITAL THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT MOBUTU FOR A "DECENT INTERVAL" - PERHAPS SIX MONTHS OR SO - AND THUS HELP PREVENT HIM FROM FALLING UNTIL THE REST OF AFRICA FORGETS KOLWEZI. HE SAID THAT MODERATE, PRO-WESTERN AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE DANGEROUSLY WEAKENED IF THEY WERE TO WITNESS WHAT THEY PERCEIVED TO BE THE OVERTHROW OF A PRO-WESTERN GOVERNMENT BY COMBINED SOVIET-CUBAN-PROGRESSIVE AFRICAN PRESSURE. AFTER SIX MONTHS OR SO, HE CONTINUED, AFRICANS WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN KOLWEZI AND WILL BE WORRYING ABOUT SOME OTHER PROBLEM. AT THAT TIME, HE SAID, THE WEST SHOULD REPLACE MOBUTU OR LET HIM FALL OF HIS OWN WEIGHT. DE TARR

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## Message Attributes

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